Level Trade Talks were held from 17—21 January and on 5th February, 1999 respectively.

The Foreign Secretary Level Talks covered issues pertaining to bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Commerce Secretary level talks discussed issues of commercial and economic importance for development of bilaterial relations viz; review of the macro-economic situation and policies in both the countries, impact of the financial crisis in South-East Asian countries on the Japanese economy and trade and its consequent repercussions on our bilateral trade, current status and scope for increase in Indo-Japanese bilateral trade, apart from discussions on stand of each country on multilateral trade and economic cooperation issues.

No specific Trade Agreements were concluded during these Talks.

Distortion of Census Data

*166. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 30th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reveals census bungling in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to set right the distortion of census data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MENEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 30th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes does not reveal any census bungling.

However, under Annexure 4 of the Report an article written by Shri Sharad Kulkarni is enclosed as miscellaneous papers. This article titled as 'Distortion of Census Data on Scheduled Tribes' states that the increase in tribal population as depicted in 1981 census over 1971 census is due to two reasons viz;

(i) 'Removal of Area Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1996' made the lists (of Scheduled Tribes) applicable to all the areas in the state whereas in 1971 it was restricted to the members of any specific Tribe, only if they were living in the area specified for that tribe.

(ii) Deliberate fraudulent responses given to the census enumerators by non-tribal house-holds.

However, the contents of the article do not reflect any bungling in the census process.

(c) Wide publicity is given during census about various provisions of the Census Act according to which the respodents are required to give correct information and it also binds enumerators to record the information truth-fully.

Data is collected at each census with due care by well-trained anumerators and as per the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as appearing in the 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification)Order 1956' as amended from time to time.

Transfer of ESIC Deposit

*167. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of Rs.100 crore of the ESI Corporation has been transferred to the Union Bank of India; if so, the reasons therefore;

(b) whether the ESIC Board has not recommended this transfer and Government have even then issued orders for the transfer of the deposit; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?